

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1           1.       (Currently Amended) A gas injection tool, comprising:  
2           a tubular member defining an axial bore therethrough, the axial bore adapted to deliver a  
3           gas into a wellbore proximate a perforation interval via orifices, wherein the gas injection tool is  
4           separate from and not in contact with a tubing string for removing fluid from the wellbore; and  
5           a plurality of gas lift valves attached to the tubular member, the gas lift valves adapted to  
6           regulate communication, via the corresponding orifices, from the axial bore of the tubular  
7           member to the wellbore at or below the perforation interval, and wherein the gas lift valves are  
8           configured to be opened in response to application of pressure applied by a flow of gas injected  
9           into the axial bore of the tubular member, wherein the gas is injected through each of the gas lift  
10          valves that is opened to assist production of fluid from the wellbore.

1           2.       (Currently Amended) The gas injection tool of claim 1, wherein the tubular  
2           member is configured to engage a sealing mechanism that seals the wellbore above the  
3           perforation interval.

1           3.       (Cancelled)

1           4.       (Previously Presented) The gas injection tool of claim 1, wherein the tubular  
2           member is adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of a gas-bearing well.

1           5.       (Previously Presented) The gas injection tool of claim 1, wherein the tubular  
2           member is adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of an oil-bearing well.

1           6.       (Previously Presented) The gas injection tool of claim 1, further comprising a  
2           retrieving element attached to the tubular member.

1           7.       (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a well having a  
2 perforation interval, the system comprising:  
3           a sealing mechanism adapted to seal the well at a location above the perforation interval,  
4 the sealing mechanism having two ports therein;  
5           a tubular string adapted to produce fluid from the perforation interval via one port in the  
6 sealing mechanism; and  
7           an injection tool separate from and not in contact with the tubular string to inject gas into  
8 the well at or below the perforation interval via the other port in the sealing mechanism, the  
9 injection tool having plural gas lift valves for delivering the injected gas into the well at a  
10 location below the sealing mechanism and at or below the perforation interval, wherein the  
11 injection tool is to receive a flow of gas and the plural gas lift valves are configured to be opened  
12 by pressure applied by the flow of gas to inject gas into the well, wherein the gas is injected  
13 through each of the gas lift valves that is opened to assist production of fluid from the well.

1           8.       (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the tubular string comprises  
2 one or more gas lift valves for injecting a gas into the well at a location above the sealing  
3 mechanism.

1           9.       (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the sealing mechanism is a  
2 dual-port packer.

1           10.      (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is a gas-bearing well.

1           11.      (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is an oil-bearing well.

1           12.      (Cancelled)

1           13.     (Currently Amended) A method for unloading an accumulated liquid from a well  
2     having a perforation interval proximate a gas-bearing formation, wherein hydrostatic pressure of  
3     the accumulated liquid exceeds pressure of produced gas, the method comprising:  
4           sealing the formation in the well at a location above the perforation interval;  
5           providing a tubing string for establishing communication between surface and a point  
6     below the sealing location;  
7           providing a gas injection tool having a plurality of gas lift valves for establishing  
8     communication between a point above the sealing location and the perforation interval below the  
9     sealing location, wherein the gas injection tool is separate from and not in contact with the tubing  
10    string;  
11          delivering gas to the gas injection tool, wherein the delivered gas applies pressure to  
12    cause the plurality of gas lift valves to open;  
13          delivering gas into the well at or below the perforation interval via the plurality of gas lift  
14    valves when opened to decrease the hydrostatic pressure of the accumulated liquid to a level  
15    sufficient to permit gas to be produced from the formation; and  
16          removing the accumulated liquid and gas from the well via the tubing string.

1           14.     (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a wellbore having  
2     perforations proximate a gas-bearing formation, the system comprising:  
3           a dual-port packer adapted to seal the wellbore at a location above the perforations, the  
4     ~~sealing mechanism dual-port packer~~ having two ports therein;  
5           a tubing string adapted to deliver gas from the perforations proximate the formation via  
6     one port in the packer to a surface location, wherein the tubing string has a valve that is actuated  
7     in response to gas pressure in a well annulus outside the tubing string exceeding a predetermined  
8     level; and  
9           an injection tool separate from and not in contact with the tubing string and adapted to  
10    inject gas from a surface location into the wellbore at or below the perforations via the other port  
11    in the packer, the injection tool having a plurality of gas lift valves for delivering the injected gas  
12    into the wellbore at a location below the packer, wherein the injection tool is to receive a flow of  
13    gas and the plural gas lift valves are configured to be opened by pressure applied by the flow of  
14    gas to inject gas into the well, wherein the gas is injected through each of the gas lift valves that  
15    is opened to assist production of fluid from the wellbore.

1           15.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gas  
2     lift valves are arranged on a side of the tubular member to enable injected gas to pass in a radial  
3     direction of the tubular member into the wellbore through the corresponding orifices.

1           16.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein a first of  
2     the gas lift valves is actuated in response to the gas reaching a first gas pressure, and a second of  
3     the gas lift valves is actuated in response to the gas reaching a second, different gas pressure.

1           17.     (Cancelled)

1           18.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first  
2     gas lift valve is closed once the delivered gas reaches the second pressure.

1           19.     (Previously Presented) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein a first of the plural  
2     gas lift valves is actuatable in response to the gas reaching a first gas pressure, and a second of  
3     the plural gas lift valves is actuatable in response to the gas reaching a second, different gas  
4     pressure.

1           20.     (Previously Presented) The gas lift system of claim 19, wherein the plural gas lift  
2     valves are configured to sequentially actuate in response to the injected gas reaching different  
3     pressures.

1           21.     (Cancelled)

1           22.     (Currently Amended) A method for producing through a wellbore having a  
2     perforation interval proximate a formation, comprising:  
3             injecting gas into the wellbore at or below the perforation interval, wherein injecting the  
4     gas comprises injecting the gas using an injecting tool having plural gas lift valves;  
5             actuating a first one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a first pressure;  
6             actuating a second one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a second, greater  
7     pressure; and  
8             producing fluids from the wellbore using a tubing string that is separate from and not in  
9     contact with the injecting tool such that the gas lift valves are separate from the tubing string.

1           23.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising closing the  
2     first gas lift valve when the injected gas reaches the second pressure.

1           24.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the  
2     plurality of gas lift valves are located at or below the perforation interval.

1           25.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection tool of claim 1, wherein the gas lift  
2     valves provided as part of the tubular member of the gas injection tool allows the gas lift valves  
3     to be separate from the tubing string.

1           26.     (Previously Presented) The gas injection tool of claim 1, wherein the gas injection  
2 tool is configured to be deployable into the wellbore separately from the tubing string.

1           27.     (Previously Presented) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein provision of the  
2 gas lift valves on the injection tool allows the gas lift valves to be separate from the tubular  
3 string.

1           28.     (Currently Amended) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the [[gas]] injection  
2 tool is configured to be deployable into the well separately from the tubular string.

1           29.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein providing the gas  
2 injection tool comprises deploying the gas injection tool into the well separately from the tubing  
3 string.

1           30.     (Previously Presented) The gas lift system of claim 14, wherein the injection tool  
2 is configured to be deployable into the wellbore separately from the tubing string.

1           31.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising deploying the  
2 injecting tool into the wellbore separately from the tubing string.